This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for determining the presence or absence of pancreatic cancer in a patient comprising

(i) obtaining a biological sample from a patient;

(ii) detecting in the sample mRNA capable of producing the cDNA consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1~~encoding a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2~~; and

(iii) comparing the amount of mRNA detected with a predetermined standard value indicating the decision line for tumor-induced or non-tumor-induced UKW expression or presence in the cell and therefrom determining the presence or absence of pancreatic cancer in the patient.

2. (Currently Amended) A process for determining whether or not a test sample of tissue or fluid of a patient contains pancreatic tumor cells ~~or fluid from pancreatic tumor cells~~, wherein the test sample and a second sample originating from non-pancreatic-tumor cells from the same individual or a different individual of the same species are used, which process comprises the following steps:

(a) incubating nucleic acids contained in each respective sample under stringent hybridization conditions with a nucleic acid probe which is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) the ~~a~~ nucleic acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a fragment thereof, said fragment comprising 50 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1;

(ii) a nucleic acid sequence which is 100% complementary to any nucleic acid sequence of (i);

(iii) a nucleic acid sequence which is capable of hybridizing under high stringent hybridization conditions with the sequence of (i); and

(iv) a nucleic acid sequence which is capable of hybridizing under high stringent hybridization conditions with the sequence of (ii); ~~and~~

(b) determining the approximate amount of hybridization of nucleic acids present in each respective sample with said probe, and

(c) comparing the approximate amount of hybridization present in said test sample to an approximate amount of hybridization present in said second sample to identify whether or not the test sample contains an approximately 15-fold to approximately 60-fold greater level of hybridization than does said second sample and therefrom determining whether the test sample contains pancreatic tumor cells ~~or fluid from pancreatic tumor cells~~;

said stringent hybridization conditions being conditions involving washing said nucleic acids with a solution of 5x SSC, 0.5% SDS, 1.0 mmol/1 EDTA, pH 8.0, then hybridizing said nucleic acids at 50 to 60°C in 5x SSC overnight, then washing said nucleic acids at room temperature for 40 minutes with 2x SSC containing 0.1% SDS and afterwards washing said nucleic acids with 0.1x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C for 40 minutes with one change of fresh solution;

said high stringent hybridization conditions being conditions involving washing said nucleic acids with a solution of 5x SSC, 0.5% SDS, 1.0 mmol/1 EDTA, pH 8.0, then hybridizing said nucleic acids at 65 to 70°C in 5x SSC overnight, then washing said nucleic acids at room temperature for 40 minutes with 2x SSC containing 0.1% SDS and afterwards washing said nucleic acids with 0.1x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C for 40 minutes with one change of fresh solution.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for the detection of pancreatic tumor, comprising

a) incubating a sample from ~~of~~ a patient suspected of suffering from pancreatic cancer, said sample containing mRNA and being selected from the group

consisting of body fluid, cells, and ~~or~~ a cell extract~~, whereby said sample contains mRNA~~, with a nucleic acid probe which is selected from the group consisting of

(i) the nucleic acid shown in SEQ ID NO:1 or a nucleic acid which is 100% complementary to said sequence, and

(ii) nucleic acids which are capable of hybridizing with one of the nucleic acids from (i) under high stringent hybridization conditions;

b) detecting hybridization; and

c) comparing the level of mRNA encoding UKW in the test sample, as evidenced by the approximate amount of hybridization of the test sample, to the level of mRNA of a housekeeping gene in the same test sample to identify whether or not the test sample contains an at least 3-fold greater level of mRNA encoding UKW in comparison to the level of mRNA of said housekeeping gene and therefrom determining whether the test sample contains pancreatic tumor cells;

~~and therefrom determining whether pancreatic tumor is present in said sample;~~

said stringent hybridization conditions being conditions involving washing said nucleic acids with a solution of 5x SSC, 0.5% SDS, 1.0 mmol/1 EDTA, pH 8.0, then hybridizing said nucleic acids at 50 to 60°C in 5x SSC overnight, then washing said nucleic acids at room temperature for 40 minutes with 2x SSC containing 0.1% SDS and afterwards washing said nucleic acids with 0.1x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C for 40 minutes with one change of fresh solution;

said high stringent hybridization conditions being conditions involving washing said nucleic acids with a solution of 5x SSC, 0.5% SDS, 1.0 mmol/1 EDTA, pH 8.0, then hybridizing said nucleic acids at 65 to 70°C in 5x SSC overnight, then washing said nucleic acids at room temperature for 40 minutes with 2x SSC containing 0.1% SDS and afterwards washing said nucleic acids with 0.1x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C for 40 minutes with one change of fresh solution.

Claims 4 to 12 (Canceled)

13. (New) A process according to claim 2 wherein said nucleic acid probe is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) the nucleic acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a fragment thereof, said fragment comprising 50 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1; and

(ii) a nucleic acid sequence which is 100% complementary to any nucleic acid sequence of (i).

14. (New) A process according to claim 2 wherein said nucleic acid probe is the nucleic acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a fragment thereof, said fragment comprising 50 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1.

15. (New) A process according to claim 2 wherein said nucleic acid probe is the nucleic acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1.

16. (New) A process according to claim 3 wherein said nucleic acid probe is the nucleic acid shown in SEQ ID NO:1 or a nucleic acid which is 100% complementary to said sequence.

17. (New) A process according to claim 3 wherein said nucleic acid probe is the nucleic acid shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.